



Annual Sampling and Cleanup Update

EPA Information Center; 501 Mineral Avenue; Libby, MT 59923 - (406) 293-6194
DEQ Troy Information Center; 303 N. Third St.; Troy, MT 59935 - (406) 295-9238
Environmental Resource Specialist – (406) 291-5335

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Operable Units

EPA divides its large Superfund sites into separate Operable Units or "OUs." This is done to make the project easier to manage, because certain segments of the project are so different from the others (e.g., residential vs. the mine), because of geographic separation (e.g., Troy vs. Libby), or because certain cleanup activities present such diverse challenges (e.g., Processing Areas vs. residential).

At the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site, EPA first concentrated on cleaning up businesses and residences in Libby because that's where the greatest concentration of people are and where the major sources of contamination were located – this is OU 4. We are pleased to report that this year work is continuing at the other Operable Units as well. We'll begin this annual update with a short report on our progress at OU 4 since that's where most of the past activity has been.

OU 4 – Residential & Commercial in Libby

EPA's progress in 2006 far exceeded our expectations, having cleaned up 216 properties (for a project total of 794). Our 2007 construction season kicked off April 2nd as planned. EPA has targeted 160 (larger and more complicated) properties for clean up in Libby this year. In addition, EPA will continue and expand the Outdoor Ambient Air Sampling Program that began last October as well as initiate a series of indoor and outdoor Activity Based Sampling programs.

OU 7 - Sampling Begins in Troy

Troy is Operable Unit 7 (OU7) of the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is the lead agency for OU 7 with Catherine LeCours serving as its Project Manager. Catherine has set up a new office in Troy at 303 N. Third St., phone number: (406) 295-9238. Tetra-Tech, DEQ's contractor, will circulate Access Agreements and begin sampling in April.

OU 3 – The Mine

EPA hopes to begin its screening-level evaluation of the vermiculite mine this season. Our goals at the mine site are to delineate the contamination, define any ambient releases or concentrations, assess the migration and transport of the contamination, and then eliminate exposure pathways.

OUs 1, 2, 5, & 6 – Processing Areas

OU 1 is the Export Plant; OU 2 is the Screening Plant, KDC Flyway/Bluffs, and associated areas; OU 5 is the Stimson Lumber Mill, and the BNSF Railway is OU 6. Our immediate goals at the Processing Areas include assessing previous work, deciding if additional work is needed, and considering future land use. This year we'll begin the data collection for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

There's a New Guy in Town

There's a new service available to residents in the Troy and Libby areas: the Environmental Resource Specialist (ERS). The ERS can be reached during regular business hours and emergencies at 406-291-5335.

The ERS can offer on-the-spot answers to your questions if you run into vermiculite, which is likely to contain Libby Amphibole Asbestos, when you're remodeling or doing yard work. It's also a good idea to consult with the ERS before you begin a project on your property. The ERS position will remain after EPA finishes its work to continue to answer your questions should you encounter vermiculite on your property or in your home.

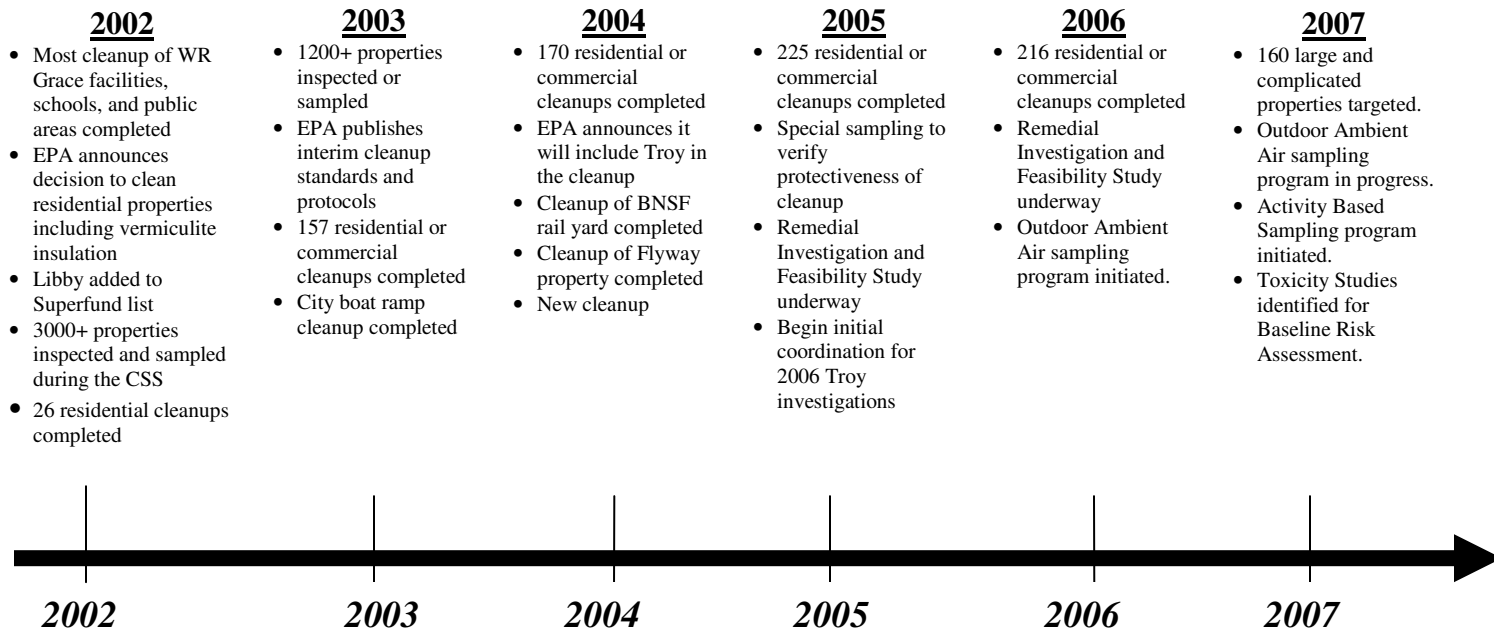


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Libby Project Timeline – 2002 to 2007



Questions? Please visit or call the EPA Information Center, at 501 Mineral Avenue in Libby (406-293-6194), or call the following EPA staff toll free:

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| - | Mike Cirian , On-Site Project Manager 406-293-6194 |
| - | Paul Peronard , Libby Team Leader 1-800-227-8917 x6808 |
| - | Ted Linnert , Community Involvement Coordinator 1-800-227-8917 x6119 |